

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /028 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:MLGREENE:AMF

APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:MLGREENE

D/HA:RPALMER (SUBS)

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R 241754Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, IR

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

REF: TEHRAN 8180

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) IS
KEYED TO SUBPARAS IN REFTEL:

A. HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED 53 THEOBALD'S ROAD, LONDON
WC1X 8SP ENGLAND.

B. FUNDING IS ENTIRELY FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS.

C. MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS OF
1975 WERE: ERIC BAKER (UK); MAGGIE BEIRNE (FROM HEAD-
QUARTERS STAFF); ANDREW BLANE (USA); DIRK BORNER (FRG),
CHAIRMAN; THOMAS HAMMERBERG (SWEDEN), VICE CHAIRMAN; ALFRED
HEIJDER (NETHERLANDS); MARIE JOSE PROTAIS (FRANCE);
MUMTAZ SOYSAL (TURKEY); KEVIN WHITE (ICELAND), TREASURER.
SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN MARTIN ENNALS, WHO DIED ABOUT
TWO MONTHS AGO.

D. THERE IS NO RPT NO OFFICIAL USG CONNECTION WITH OR-
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GANIZATION. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT HAS CONTINUING INFORMAL

CONTACT WITH AIUSA AND AI.

E. UNDER LONDON HEADQUARTERS, THERE ARE ABOUT 35 NATIONAL OFFICES (E.G., AIUSA). PAID STAFF IS VERY SMALL, WITH MUCH OF WORK DONE BY SOME 70,000 MEMBERS IN ABOUT 65 COUNTRIES. HEADQUARTERS IS ORGANIZED INTO REGIONAL OFFICES WITH NATIONAL GROUPS REPORTING THERE.

2. FYI. AIUSA HAS GROWN FROM 3,000 MEMBERS TO OVER 40,000 IN PAST FOUR YEARS.

3. YOU MAY FIND USEFUL FEW EXCERPTS FROM AI'S STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES: "FOUNDED IN 1961 IN BELIEF EVERY PERSON HAS RIGHT TO HOLD AND EXPRESS CONVICTIONS AND HAS AN OBLIGATION TO EXTEND SAME FREEDOM TO OTHERS." AI "WORKS FOR RELEASE OF MEN AND WOMEN IMPRISONED ANYWHERE FOR THEIR BELIEFS, COLOR, LANGUAGE, ETHNIC ORIGIN OR RELIGION, PROVIDED THEY HAVE NOT USED OR ADVOCATED VIOLENCE." AI "OPPOSES USE OF TORTURE AND DEATH PENALTY" AND ADVOCATES "FAIR AND EARLY TRIALS FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS." AI "ARRANGES MISSIONS TO COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT IS CONCERNED AND SENDS REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAK TO GOVERNMENTS. IT ALSO SENDS OBSERVERS TO TRIALS" AND "PROVIDES RELIEF TO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES." KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE209954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLGREENE:AMF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760323-0588
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760824/aaaaaume.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 8180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, IR, AMNESTY INTL
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006